

AUG 28 1992

MEMORANDUM R. A. PAGES

DATE: AUGUST 27, 1992

RE: CAL/EPA AIR RESOURCES BOARD: FINAL REPORT ON THE
IDENTIFICATION OF FORMALDEHYDE AS A TOXIC AIR CONTAMINANT,
JULY 1992

Background

A toxic air contaminant (TAC) is defined in the California Health and Safety Code § 39655 as "an air pollutant which may cause or contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious illness, or which may pose a present or potential hazard to human health." Evaluation of possible TACs is overseen by the Air Resources Board (ARB), part of the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA). ARB staff prepare an exposure assessment and Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHHA) staff prepare a written evaluation on available health effects information. After a public comment period, all materials are formally reviewed by the Scientific Review Panel (SRP) at a public meeting. SRP then submits a written report to ARB.

ARB Final Report

Formaldehyde was identified by the ARB. However, due to written requests, ARB and OEHHHA staff were directed to "make clarifications to" the initial report, reflecting an executive summary and three volumes of supplementary information, the Technical Support Document (the exposure assessment, health assessment, and public comments and ARB/OEHHHA responses). Following its identification as a TAC, formaldehyde will enter a "risk management" or "control" phase, during which a report on the need for and degree of control measures will be prepared.

*1 (COPY) -
Send copy to
Richard Carchman
R&D/TS
March 12, 1992,
to ARB and
to "make
information,
exposure assessment,
and ARB/OEHHHA responses).*

Classification as a TAC

ARB's recommendation that formaldehyde be classified as a TAC was based on the following: (1) sufficient evidence that exposure to formaldehyde poses a public health hazard; (2) that formaldehyde is detected in ambient and indoor air and does not break down at a rate that would eliminate exposure; and (3) that formaldehyde is listed as a hazardous air pollutant by the federal government.

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